grant-in-aid from Japan was sent to Ministry of Finance by the State Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether after lifting of sanctions, Japan was keen to complete the project and basic design study team visited these hospitals in January, 2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government would take up the matter with Japan for getting the project sanctioned early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A team from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited India in the first quarter of 2003 and finalized the basic design of the project for improvement of medical equipment for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama & Albless Hospital in Mumbai. Exchange of Notes for implementation of this project with Japanese grant assistance of JY 759 million was signed between Government of Japan and Government of India on 28.08.2003.

Group discount on Mediclaim Policy

28. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. allowed excess group discount on Mediclaim Policy to LIC during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this discount was allowed in violation of guidelines and if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the action taken in this regard including the recovery of amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.